



Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative

September 2024



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Libraries  
Initiative

# SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates  
from the Sustainable Libraries  
Initiative

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## NEW FEATURE!

### Abstract

Public libraries exist across every state and territory in the United States and are charged with serving the public good, including community lifelong learning needs, inclusive of STEM education. In this context, the profession of librarianship has developed new thinking to articulate how public libraries can embrace the core value of sustainability, including a National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries. This strategy calls on public libraries to harness the transformative power of education for climate justice by developing relationships with local community organizations. This report introduces the framework that has been developed around this topic, some of the work individual public libraries have accomplished, and opportunities for enhanced collaboration to ensure public libraries are fully included in strategies focused on critical climate actions. The report argues that libraries are the special ingredient, found in every community across the country, that climate action plans need to actualize the buy-in, collaboration, and energy that will bring them to life.

Sustainable Libraries Initiative President and co-founder Rebekkah Smith Aldrich published a report for STAR Library Network: a division of the *Space Science Institute* designed to expand the knowledge of science, engineering, technology, and mathematics within the community of library professionals.

The report, titled *Public Libraries are Critical Agencies in Multi-Sector Climate Action Plans, Policies, and Actions*, argues that libraries are frontrunning organizations in the battle to build community resiliency against climate change.

Check out Rebekkah's full report and the STAR Library Network's Building Resilient Communities project -- advised by SLI Vice President and co-founder Matthew Bollerman -- with the links below.

## NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY FOR LIBRARIES IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE AVAILABLE NOW!

If you haven't yet already, check out **The National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries Implementation Guide**: a project co-produced by the American Library Association and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative to ensure that libraries remain a vital and responsive resource in their communities: making an impact on lives for generations to come in the face of climate change and its consequences.

SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, and principal author of the strategy and implementation guide, said "There is no doubt that this will take strategic, deliberate prioritization by library administrators, trustees, and, in fact – all library stakeholders. With the rapid change in climate impacting all corners of our country, libraries can no longer afford to ignore their role in making a difference for their communities when it comes to actively reducing environmental impact and adapting to the existing consequences."

Leverage the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries to guide your sustainability goals or bring your strategic planning to the next level. Check key areas to focus on such as climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and justice work. Check out the strategy and read the official press release with the buttons below.



NCAS Press Release

# SLI UPDATES

## Upcoming Introductory Webinars

Save the dates!

### **An Introduction to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative**

Thursday, September 26th at 10:30 AM Eastern

*Presented by:*

- *Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System, President and Co-founder of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative*
- *Matthew Bollerman, Chief Executive Officer, Hauppauge Public Library, Vice President and Co-founder of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative*

The SLI was created thanks to a group of colleagues who wanted to help libraries step up and own their role as sustainability leaders in the face of the effects of climate change. We've developed tools, resources and methodologies that help library leaders be more authentic and focused in their decision making; resource use; service and program design; and partnerships to align with the triple bottom line of sustainability: environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility. Come and learn about this project and what your library can access now that you can opt-in to a free membership to the SLI for the next year as a member of your state library association.

### **An Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP)**

Tuesday, October 15th at 11:00 AM Eastern

*Panelists:*

*Janet Scherer, Director, South Huntington Public Library, SLI Advisory Board*  
*Lisa Jacobs, Library Director, Longwood Public Library, SLCP Mentor*  
*Lisa Kropp, Library Director, Lindenhurst Memorial Library, President-New York Library Association, SLI Advisory Board*

*Moderator:*

*Alex Blend, Sustainability Coordinator, Sustainable Libraries Initiative*

During this webinar, you will learn about the Sustainable Library Certification Program. A panel of speakers whose libraries completed the SLCP will describe their journey and share their library's experiences.

## Upcoming Introductory Webinars (Continued)



Are you a member of one of our partnered state library associations (Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, or New York)? Did you know that you're entitled to one free year of annual membership to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and a 20% discount on our certification program?

Are you not a member of any of these organizations but still interested in learning more about what the SLI has to offer?

In the upcoming months, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative will be hosting two introductory webinars geared towards helping new and prospective members make the most of their SLI resources and learn more about our award-winning Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP).

Register for either of these programs with the buttons below!

[An Introduction to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#)

[An Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program](#)

## The SLI Featured in an Article for *Our Towns*



Recently certified member San Diego County Library and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative were recently featured in an article for *Our Towns Civic Foundation*: an organization with a mission to highlight people, ideas, and organizations building tomorrow's communities, today.

The detailed article showcases the efforts of the San Diego County Library throughout their journey to become more sustainable and is an informative, detailed read for anybody looking to learn more about what it means to incorporate sustainability as a value in your library and live a "day-in-the-life" as a participant in the Sustainable Library Certification Program. Check out the original article below!

[Our Towns Article](#)

# World Cleanup Day

## Five Years of Impact from Six Cleanup Campaigns

Since 2018, a total of 211 countries and territories, which includes 95% of UN member states, have engaged 91M participants, equal to 1.13% of the global population, removing 543,704 tons of mismanaged waste from our environment.

2018–2023



World Cleanup Day is an annual global social action program aimed at combating the global mismanaged waste crisis, including the problem of marine debris. It is coordinated by the Let's Do It World NGO, a global organization with headquarters in Tallinn, Estonia.

Beginning in 2024, World Cleanup Day has been officially added to the United Nation's calendar of International Days and Weeks to be celebrated annually on September 20th.

You can participate as a cleanup organizer, a participant in an already-organized local event, or both!

Click the link below for more information.



World Cleanup Day

# ILA Conference



Iowans, come find us at the Iowa Library Association Annual Conference from October 9th to 11th in Des Moines!

Swing by our booth for a visit, register for our newsletter, grab some sustainable swag, and learn more about your opportunities with the SLI provided by your state library association.

We also have a program slot! SLI Sustainability Coordinator Alex Blend will be hosting a fireside chat featuring ILA President Julie Finch to discuss the trailblazing efforts of libraries in creating sustainable and resilient communities. Catch the breakout session on Thursday, October 10th at 11:00 AM.

Booth number and conference session meeting room to be announced. Be sure to follow us on social media to catch any updates!



@sustainablelibrariesinitiative



@sustainablelib2



Sustainable Libraries Initiative



Sustainable Libraries Initiative (public group)

## Upcoming Presentations

Iowa isn't the only state getting a visit from the SLI in October! Attendees of the New England Library Association (NELA) or Virginia Library Association (VLA) annual conferences are encouraged to view the following presentations:

### **Virginia Library Association Annual Conference**

#### **Tackling Climate Change Together via the Libratory**

presented by: SLI advisory board members Lisa Kropp and Jen Ferriss

Friday, October 18th at 10:00 am

"Libraries are leaders in climate action work and educate communities on local impacts of climate change. Learn why climate action work needs to take place across all job levels in libraries, and how to get libraries invited to the tables of other community organizations."

### **New England Library Association Annual Conference**

#### **Equitable & Climate-Smart Library Programming**

presented by: SLI advisory board members Hazel Onsrud and Margaret Woodruff alongside certified SLI member Reni Cunningham from Concord Public Library

Monday, October 21st at 9:00 am

"Join us to learn from members of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative about library programs that can support your communities' action on climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate justice. We'll share how to work with partners to identify and address local needs with a global sustainability lens. Gain practical, replicable and cost-effective examples from presenters who have run hundreds of sustainability programs. We'll highlight how to use your materials to support your activities and how these types of programs can broaden your collection's use. Attendees will come away with resources to replicate successful SLI programs, share theirs, expand their collections, and better serve and delight their patrons."

Click the links below to see the official postings.

VLA Conference

NELA Conference



# FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**September 5**

**SLCP Meetup: Water**

1:00 pm EST

Join us for a meeting with guest speakers as we discuss the sustainability of a library's water use!

Time is included to ask any topic-specific or general questions about the SLCP. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



**September 26**

**An Introduction to the SLI**

10:30 am EST

During this webinar, we will introduce the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and the members-only resources you have access to for the coming year as an ILA, MLA (ME), MLA (MA), NJLA or NYLA member -- all are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



**October 3**

**SLCP Meetup: Waste & Materials**

1:00 pm EST

Join us for a meeting with guest speakers as we discuss waste and material management in the library setting! Time is included to ask any topic-specific or general questions about the SLCP. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



**October 15**

**An Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program**

During this webinar, you will learn about the Sustainable Library Certification Program. A panel of speakers whose libraries completed the SLCP will describe their journey and share their library's experiences.

REGISTER NOW



September SLCP Meetup - Water

Introduction to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

An Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program

PrintReleaf empowers SLCP members to offset the paper and fiber-based materials consumption of your library, in order to sustain and grow our global forestry system. SLCP members can [submit your paper purchases](#) here.



Thanks to the SLI's partnership with CCP Solutions, Sustainable Library Certification Program members have collectively offset the equivalent of 18.99M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.28K trees! Keep up the good work!



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